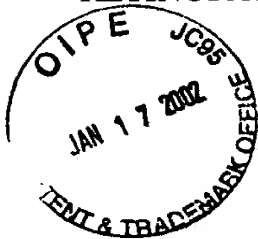


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Einar STEFÁNSSON) Group Art Unit: 1614
Application No.: 09/925,659) Examiner:
Filed: August 10, 2001)
For: METHOD FOR THE PREVENTION)
AND TREATMENT OF)
RETINOPATHY)



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following:

[0026] In early (as well as late) diabetic retinopathy, capillary occlusions are seen; this is generally thought to cause ischemia and to be the underlying cause of further damage in diabetic retinopathy. CAIs dilate the retinal vasculature [Harris et al., *Acta Ophthalmol. Scandinavica*, 74, 569-572 (1996)] and should prevent or re-open occluded retinal capillaries.